

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;
Nanci E. Langley, Vice Chairman;
Mark Acton;
Tony Hammond; and
Robert G. Taub

Mail Processing Network
Rationalization Service Changes, 2012

Docket No. N2012-1

ORDER SCHEDULING HEARING
CONCERNING POSTAL SERVICE'S MODIFIED NETWORK CONSOLIDATION PLAN

(Issued May 24, 2012)

On May 17, 2012, the Postal Service announced it “plans to move ahead with a modified plan to consolidate its network of 461 mail processing locations in phases.”¹ The proposals presented in the Postal Service's Modified Plan and in Docket No. N2012-1 share many similarities. However, the Modified Plan includes additional information that appears to supersede Postal Service testimony currently on the record in Docket No. N2012-1. For the advisory opinion to be most informative to the Postal Service, Congress, and users of the mail, the Commission should consider current Postal Service plans. Consideration of the current plans requires that up-to-date information be made part of the Docket No. N2012-1 record.

¹ United States Postal Service Postal News, Release No. 12-058, May 17, 2012 (Modified Plan).

This Order outlines the procedural steps the Commission will take to incorporate the information described by the Modified Plan into the Docket No. N2012-1 record. The Commission intends to adhere to the original procedural schedule in this docket, and will accommodate these additional procedural steps within the constraints of that schedule.

Hearing and witness identification. The Commission will convene a hearing on June 7, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room to consider issues related to the Postal Service's Modified Plan. The Postal Service shall identify a witness to appear at the hearing who possesses the knowledge and ability to respond authoritatively to questions concerning the modified network consolidation plan announced on May 17, 2012, in relation to the Postal Service proposals put forth in Docket No. N2012-1. Notice identifying the witness shall be filed with the Commission by June 4, 2012.

Written questions to the Postal Service. To develop the record efficiently and effectively, the Commission is providing the Postal Service with specific questions to be answered in writing before the hearing. The Commission has prepared questions that appear in a separate Commission Information Request No. 1 issued today. The Postal Service shall provide written responses to the questions by June 4, 2012.

The Postal Service witness previously identified shall be prepared to answer questions at the June 7, 2012 hearing concerning the written responses filed by the Postal Service. The witness also shall be authorized to attest to the accuracy of the written responses filed by the Postal Service.

Participant questions. Participants will be provided the opportunity to question the Postal Service witness during the hearing. Questions shall be limited solely to obtaining explanations or descriptions of the Postal Service's Modified Plan, along with comparisons to the Postal Service's proposals and supporting information previously provided in Docket No. N2012-1. An opportunity for written discovery will not be provided.

Supplemental rebuttal testimony. The hearing to enter participants' rebuttal testimony into the record is scheduled for June 12-15, 2012. The impact of the Postal Service's Modified Plan on the rebuttal testimony is unclear at this time. Participants may supplement their written testimony if impacted by the Postal Service's Modified Plan through the close of business on June 11, 2012. The Postal Service will have the opportunity to cross-examine witnesses concerning supplemental testimony at the June 12-15, 2012 hearing, but will not be provided an opportunity for written discovery on this material.

It is ordered:

1. The Postal Service shall identify a witness to answer oral questions at a hearing by filing a notice with the Commission by June 4, 2012.
2. The Postal Service shall provide written responses to the questions posed in Commission Information Request No. 1 by June 4, 2012.
3. A hearing is scheduled for June 7, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room, at which time the previously identified Postal Service witness shall respond to questions concerning the Modified Plan.
4. Participants may supplement their written testimony to reflect the impact of the Postal Service's Modified Plan through the close of business on June 11, 2012.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove
Secretary